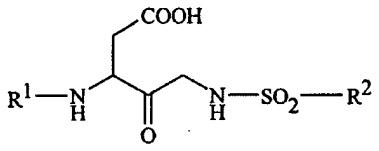
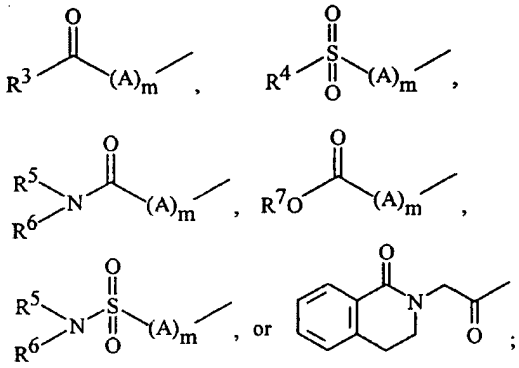
Listing of Claims

1. **(Original)** A compound of Formula I



(I)

wherein R^1 is



R^3 is hydrogen,
C_1-C_6 alkyl,
-$(CH_2)_n$ aryl, or
-$(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl;

R^4 is C_1-C_6 alkyl,
-$(CH_2)_n$ aryl, or
-$(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl;

R^5 and R^6 are each independently hydrogen,
C_1-C_6 alkyl,
-$(CH_2)_n$ aryl, or
-$(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl;

R^7 is C_1-C_6 alkyl,
$-(CH_2)_n$ aryl, or
$-(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl;

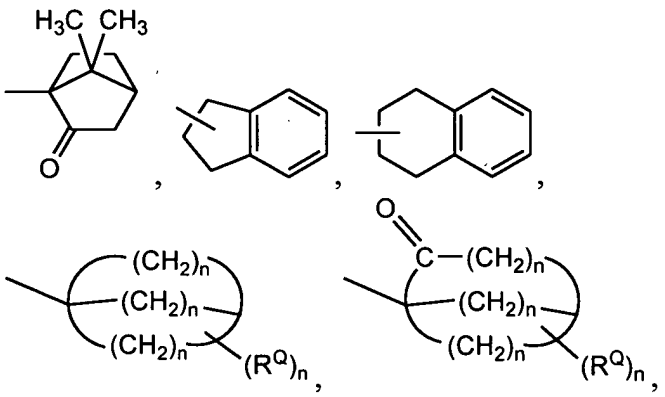
each n is independently 0 to 6;

each m is independently 0, 1, 2, or 3;

A is alanine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, glycine, tyrosine, serine, threonine, tryptophan, cysteine, methionine, valine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid, lysine, glutamic acid, arginine, or histidine;

R^2 is $-(CH_2)_n$-Z; and

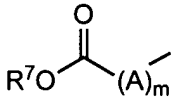
Z is aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl,



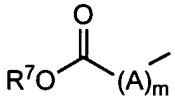
fluorenyl, substituted fluorenyl, substituted aryl,
substituted heteroaryl, or substituted cycloalkyl,

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

2. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**1**~~ **19** wherein R^1 is

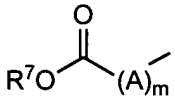


3. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**1**~~ **19** wherein R^1 is



m is 0, and R^7 is $-(CH_2)_n$ aryl.

4. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**1**~~ **19** wherein R^1 is



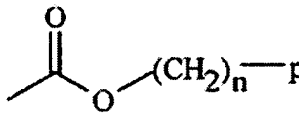
m is 0, and R^7 is $-CH_2$ aryl.

5. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**1**~~ **19** wherein R^2 is $-(CH_2)_n$ aryl.

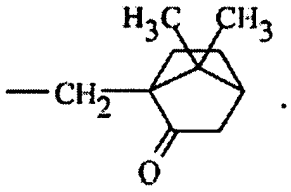
6. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim 5 wherein aryl is phenyl or naphthyl.

7. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**1**~~ **19** wherein R^2 is $-(CH_2)_n$-cycloalkyl.

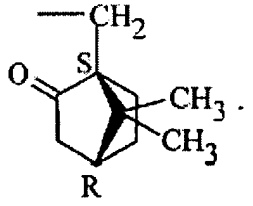
8. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**1**~~ **19** wherein R^1 **is**



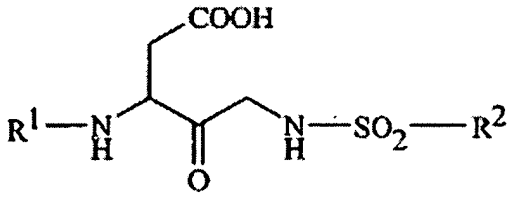
9. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**1**~~ **19** wherein R^2 is



10. (**Currently Amended**) **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**1**~~ **19** wherein R^2 is



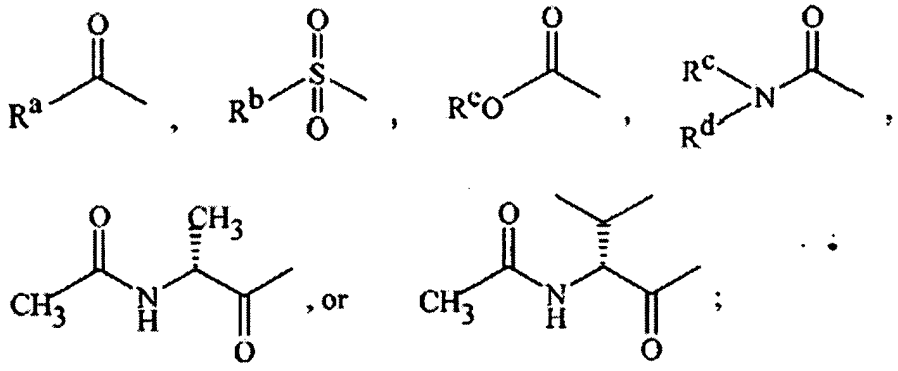
11. (**Original**) A compound of the Formula I



I

wherein R^2 is $-CH_2CH_2$-aryl, $-CH_2$-cycloalkyl, $-CH_2CH_2$-cycloalkyl, or $-CH_2CH_2$-heteroaryl;

R^1 is



R^a is $-(CH_2)_n$ aryl or $-(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl;

R^b is aryl or heteroaryl;

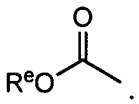
R^c is $-CH_2$ aryl or aryl;

R^d is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

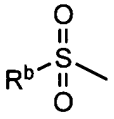
R^e is $-CH_2$ aryl or $-CH_2$ heteroaryl;

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

12. (**Currently Amended**) **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**11**~~ **26** wherein R^1 is



13. (**Currently Amended**) **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**11**~~ **26** wherein R^1 is



14. (**Currently Amended**) **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**11**~~ **26** wherein R^e is $-(CH_2)_n$ aryl.

15. (**Currently Amended**) **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim 14 wherein aryl is phenyl or naphthyl.

16. (**Currently Amended**) **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim 13 wherein R^b is aryl.

17. (**Currently Amended**) **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim 16 wherein is aryl is phenyl.

18. (**Currently Amended**) **The method according to claim 19 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of** ~~**The compounds**~~:

3-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-4-oxo-5-(2-phenylmethanesulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid;

3-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-4-oxo-5-(3-phenyl-propane-1-sulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid;

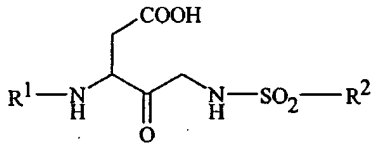
3-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-4-oxo-5-phenyl-methanesulfonyl-amino-pentanoic acid;

5-Benzenesulfonylamino-3-benzyloxycarbonylamino-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;

3-Benzyloxycarbonylarnino-5-methanesulfonylamino-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;

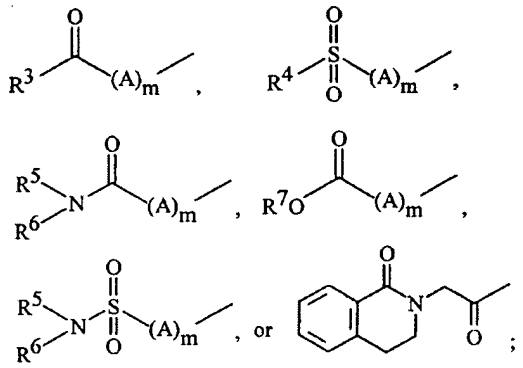
3-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-5-(naphthalene-1-sulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-5-(2-cyclohexyl-ethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-5-(2-naphthalen-1-yl-ethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo [2.2.1]hept-1-(R)-ylmethane sulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-5-(indan-1-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-5-(9-fluoro-9H-fluoren-9-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo [2.2.1]hept-1-(S)-ylmethane sulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-(2-Acetylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-1-(S)-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-(2-Acetylamino-propylamino)-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-1-(S)-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
3-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1-oxo-isoquinoline-2-yl)-acetanino-5-benzenesulfonyl amino-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;
(S)-5-(Bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-1-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-3-[2-(1-oxo-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-acetylamino]-pentanoic acid;
(S)-4-Oxo-3-[2-(1-oxo-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-acetylamino]-5-(2-phenyl-ethanesulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid; and
4-Oxo-3-[2-(1-oxo-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-acetylamino]-5-phenylmethane sulfonylamino-pentanoic acid;
and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

19. (**Currently Amended**) A method of inhibiting interleukin-1β converting enzyme, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of inhibition of interleukin-1β converting enzyme a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of ~~**claim 1**~~ **Formula I**



(I)

wherein R^1 is



R^3 is hydrogen,
C_1-C_6 alkyl,
-$(CH_2)_n$ aryl, or
-$(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl;

R^4 is C_1-C_6 alkyl,
-$(CH_2)_n$ aryl, or
-$(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl;

R^5 and R^6 are each independently hydrogen,
C_1-C_6 alkyl,
-$(CH_2)_n$ aryl, or
-$(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl;

R^7 is C_1-C_6 alkyl,
-$(CH_2)_n$ aryl, or
-$(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl;

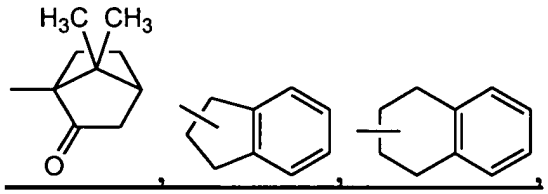
each n is independently 0 to 6;

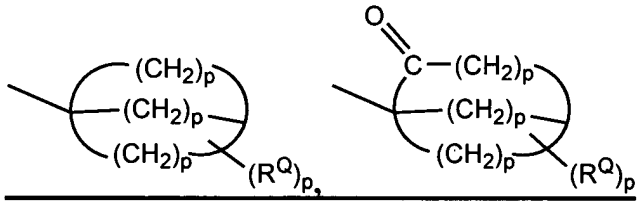
each m is independently 0, 1, 2, or 3;

A is alanine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, glycine, tyrosine, serine, threonine, tryptophan, cysteine, methionine, valine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic acid, lysine, glutamic acid, arginine, or histidine;

R^2 is $-(CH_2)_n-Z$; and

Z is aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl,





fluorenyl, substituted fluorenyl, substituted aryl, substituted heteroaryl, or substituted cycloalkyl,

each R^Q is independently hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

and each p is independently 1, 2, or 3;

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

20. (**Currently Amended**) A method of inhibiting Caspase-4, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of Caspase-4 inhibition a Caspase-4 inhibiting amount of a compound of **Formula I of** claim ~~1~~ **19**.

21. (**Currently Amended**) **The** ~~A~~ method **of claim 19 wherein** ~~**of treating or preventing stroke, the method comprising to a**~~ **said** patient **had** ~~**having**~~ a stroke or **is** having ~~**had**~~ a stroke ~~**a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1**~~**; or said patient has an inflammatory disease, septic shock, reperfusion injury, Alzheimer's disease, or shigellosis**.

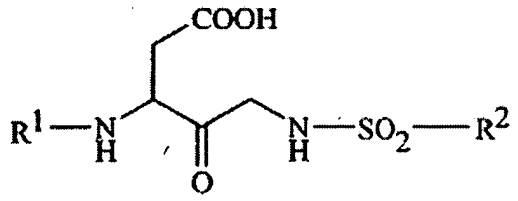
22. (**Original**) A method of treating inflammatory diseases, the method comprising administering to a patient having an inflammatory disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

23. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim ~~**22**~~ **21** wherein the inflammatory disease is arthritis **or inflammatory bowel syndrome**.

24. (**Original**) The method of claim 22 wherein the inflammatory disease inflammatory bowel disease.

25. (**Original**) A pharmaceutically acceptable composition that comprises a compound of claim 1.

26. (**Currently Amended**) A method of inhibiting interleukin-1β converting enzyme, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of inhibition of interleukin-1β converting enzyme a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of ~~**claim 11**~~ **Formula I**



I

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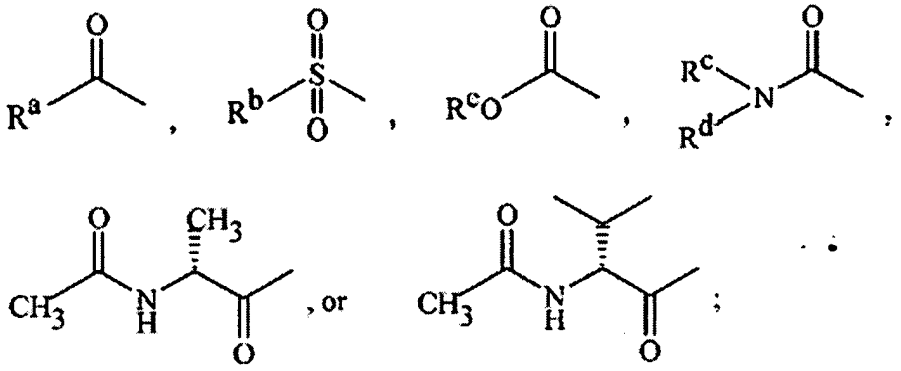
wherein R^2 is $-CH_2CH_2$-aryl, $-CH_2$-cycloalkyl, $-CH_2CH_2$-cycloalkyl, or

-CH_2CH_2-heteroaryl;

R^1 is



R^a is -$(CH_2)_n$ aryl or -$(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl;

R^b is aryl or heteroaryl;

R^c is -CH_2 aryl or aryl;

R^d is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^e is -CH_2 aryl or -CH_2 heteroaryl;

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

27. (**Currently Amended**) A method of inhibiting Caspase-4, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of Caspase-4 inhibition a Caspase-4 inhibiting amount of a compound of **Formula I of** claim ~~11~~ **26**.

28. (**Currently Amended**) **The** ~~A~~ method **according to claim 26 wherein** ~~of treating or preventing stroke, the method comprising administering to a~~ **said** patient **had** ~~having~~ a stroke or **is** having ~~had~~ a stroke ~~a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 11~~**; or said patient has an inflammatory disease, septic shock, reperfusion injury, Alzheimer's disease, or shigellosis**.

29. (**Original**) A method of treating or preventing stroke, the method comprising administering to a patient having had a stroke or having a stroke a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 11.

30. (**Currently Amended**) **The** ~~**A**~~ method of claim ~~**29**~~ **28** wherein the inflammatory disease is arthritis **or inflammatory bowel disease**.

31. (**Original**) The method of claim 29 wherein the inflammatory disease is inflammatory bowel disease.

32. (**Original**) A pharmaceutically acceptable composition that comprises a compound of claim 11.

33. (**Original**) A method of treating septic shock, the method comprising administering to a patient having septic shock a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

34. (**Original**) A method of treating septic shock, the method comprising administering to a patient having septic shock a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 11.

35. (**Original**) A method of treating reperfusion injury, the method of comprising administering to a patient having reperfusion injury a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

36. (**Original**)) A method of treating reperfusion injury, the method of comprising administering to a patient having reperfusion injury a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 11.

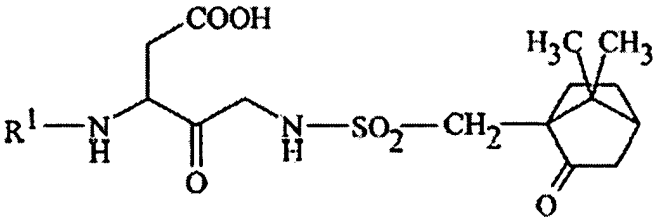
37. (**Original**) A method of treating Alzheimer's disease, the method of comprising administering to a patient having Alzheimer's disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

38. (**Original**) A method of treating Alzheimer's disease, the method of comprising administering to a patient having Alzheimer's disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 11.

39. (**Original**) A method of treating shigellosis, the method comprising administering to a patient having shigellosis a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

40. (**Original**) A method of treating shigellosis, the method comprising administering to a patient having shigellosis a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 11.

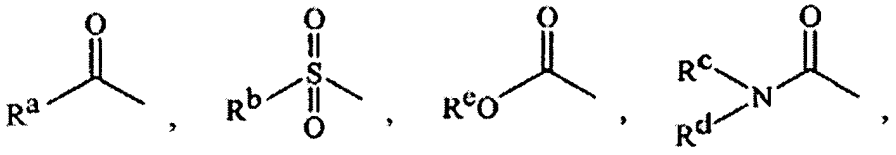
41. (**Original**) A compound of the Formula II

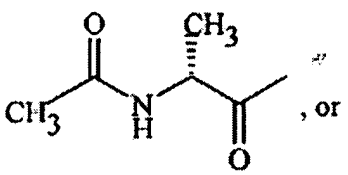


II

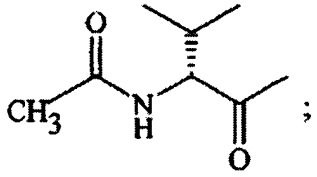
wherein

R^1 is





, or



;

R^a is $-(CH_2)_n$-aryl or $-(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl;

R^b is aryl or heteroaryl;

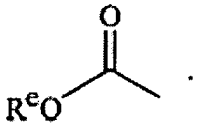
R^c is $-CH_2$ aryl or aryl;

R^d is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

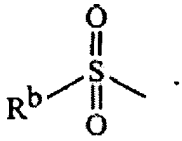
R^e is $-CH_2$ aryl or $-CH_2$ heteroaryl; and

the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

42. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**41**~~ **48** wherein R^1 is



43. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**41**~~ **48**wherein R^1 is



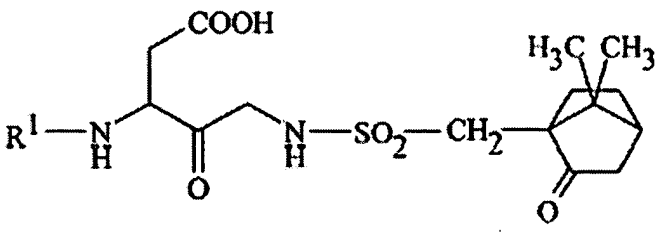
44. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**41**~~ **48**wherein R^e is $-(CH_2)_n$ aryl.

45. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**41**~~ **48**wherein aryl is phenyl or naphthyl.

46. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim ~~**41**~~ **48**wherein R^b is aryl.

47. **(Currently Amended)** **The method** ~~**A compound**~~ according to claim 46 wherein is aryl is phenyl.

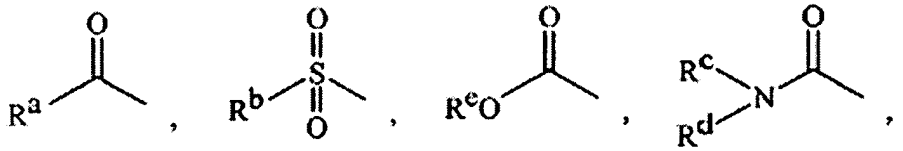
48. **(Currently Amended)** A **method of inhibiting interleukin-1β converting enzyme, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of inhibition of interleukin-1β converting enzyme a therapeutically effective amount of a** ~~**A**~~ compound of the Formula II

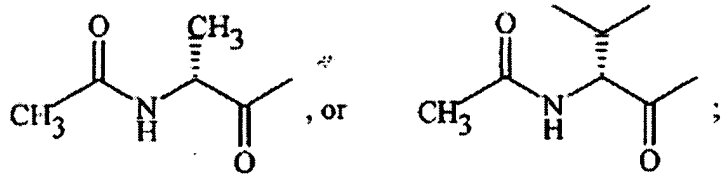


II

wherein

R^1 is





R^a is $-(CH_2)_n$-aryl or $-(CH_2)_n$ heteroaryl;

R^b is aryl or heteroaryl;

R^c is $-CH_2$ aryl or aryl;

R^d is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^e is $-CH_2$ aryl or $-CH_2$ heteroaryl; and

the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.

49. (**Currently Amended**) A method of inhibiting Caspase-4, the method comprising administering to a patient in need of Caspase-4 inhibition a Caspase-4 inhibiting amount of a compound of **Formula I of** claim ~~41~~ **48**.

50. (**Currently Amended**) **The** ~~A~~ method **of claim 48 wherein** ~~**of treating or preventing stroke, the method comprising administering to a**~~ **said** patient **had** ~~**having**~~ a stroke or **is** having ~~**had**~~ a stroke ~~**a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41;**~~ **or said patient has an inflammatory disease, septic shock, reperfusion injury, Alzheimer's disease, or shigellosis**.

51. (**Original**) A method of treating inflammatory diseases, the method comprising administering to a patient having an inflammatory disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41.

52. (**Currently Amended**) The method of claim ~~**51**~~ **50** wherein the inflammatory disease is arthritis **or inflammatory bowel disease**.

53. (**Original**) A method of treating septic shock, the method comprising administering to a patient having septic shock a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41.

54. (**Original**) A method of treating reperfusion injury, the method comprising administering to a patient having reperfusion injury a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41.

55. (**Original**) A method of treating reperfusion injury, the method comprising administering to a patient having reperfusion injury a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41.

56. (**Original**) A method of treating Alzheimer's disease, the method of comprising administering to a patient having Alzheimer's disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41.

57. (**Original**) A method of treating shigellosis, the method comprising administering to a patient having shigellosis a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 41.

58. **(Currently Amended)** The **method according to claim 19 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of the** compounds:

3-[2-(2-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-propionylamino]4-oxo-5-(2-phenyl-ethanesulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid;

3-[2-(2-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-4-carboxy-butyrylamino)-3-methyl-butyrylamino]-4-oxo-5-(2-phenyl-ethanesulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid;

3-{2-[4-Carboxy-2-(3-phenyl-propionylamino)-butyrylamino]-3-methyl-butyryl-amino}-4-oxo-5-(2-phenyl-ethanesulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid;

3-[2-(2-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino) propionylamino]-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-1-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;

3-[2-(2-Benzyloxycarbonylamino-4-carboxy-butyrylamino)-3-methyl-butyrylamino]-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-1-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;

3-{2-[4-Carboxy-2-(3-phenyl-propionylamino)-butyrylamino]-3-methyl-butyrylamino}-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo[2.2.1]hept-1-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid;

3-(2-{2-[2-Acetylamino-3-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-propionylamino]-4-carboxy-butyrylamino}-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-5-(7,7-dimethyl-2-oxo-bicyclo[2.2.1] hept-1-ylmethanesulfonylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid; and

3-(2-{2-[2-Acetylamino-3-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-propionylamino]-4-carboxy-butyrylamino}-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-4-oxo-5-(2-phenyl-ethanesulfonylamino)-pentanoic acid**;**

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, amides, and prodrugs thereof.